

CALIFORNIA LATINO CAUCUS



LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



Volume 3, Edition 2 — February 2009

Chair

Sen. Gil Cedillo

Vice Chair

Asm. Tony Mendoza

Senators

Ron Calderón

Lou Correa

Denise Moreno
Ducheny

Dean Flórez

Gloria Negrete
McLeod

Jenny Oropeza

Alex Padilla

Gloria Romero

Assemblymembers

Juan Arámbula

Anna Caballero

Charles Calderón

Joe Coto

Héctor De La Torre

Kevin De León

Felipe Fuentes

Ed Hernández

Pedro Nava

John A. Pérez

V. Manuel Pérez

Mary Salas

Lori Saldaña

Jose Solorio

Norma J. Torres

Alberto Torrico

New Latino Caucus Member Profile

Assembly Member Norma J. Torres



Norma Torres didn't choose to become politically active; she was just doing her job when a life changing call came into the 9-1-1 center where she was working. The caller only spoke Spanish and by the time the call was transferred to her, all she could hear was the sound of five bullets hitting and killing a young girl. This tragic call spurred her to lead the charge to require bilingual dispatchers at LAPD's 9-1-1 center. She built a coalition from the west San Fernando Valley to the Eastside of Los Angeles and forced the police department to change its policy.

After leading that successful effort, she became active in her neighborhood association, helping to lead a grassroots effort to defeat a proposed mega-development at the Fairplex in Pomona. She used these experiences to help craft her neighborhood empowerment message when she ran for Pomona City Council the following year.

While on the City Council, she helped pass

the state's first ordinance preventing sex offenders from living near Pomona's schools and businesses or together in large group homes.

Norma then won a special election and became Mayor of Pomona. As mayor, she worked to strengthen public safety, restored lost firefighter positions, and cracked down on gangs and drug crimes. She also worked to bring new businesses to Pomona through the many development projects that began under her watch.

She is a member of the Democratic National Committee and served as a Presidential Elector for Barack Obama, appointed by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano.

Norma emigrated from Guatemala at the age of five. She is the first woman to be awarded the Guatemalan Congressional Medal of Honor, "*La Orden De Gran Caballero*", bestowed upon her by the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala in 2006 in recognition of her political achievements in the US. Norma is the only person living outside of Guatemala to receive this award.

She brings a lifetime of community service to the State Assembly. As a member of A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 3090, she stands squarely with California's working families during these tough economic times.

Norma lives in Pomona with her husband, Louis, and their three sons, Robert, Chris and Matt.

Building California's Health Professions Workforce

On February 3rd 2009, Assembly Member Hernandez along with the support of the Tri-Caucus held an informational briefing, **Building California's Health Professions Workforce: a Comprehensive Approach**, to inform legislative members and staff of a comprehensive statewide strategy to build a health professions workforce that is prepared to effectively serve our increasingly diverse communities.

The strategy was developed from findings and recommendations made via a series of research studies conducted through the Connecting the Dots Initiative (CTD), a

partnership between the Public Health Institute and the UC Berkeley School of Public Health funded by The California Endowment.

The briefing included various speakers such as Dr. David Carlisle of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Kathy Flores of the UC San Francisco School of Medicine and Al Hernandez of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California. They presented key findings that shed light on the serious shortage in the state's health professions workforce and what various groups are doing to address this important issue.

Increasing College Graduates among Students from Immigrant Families

The California Program on Opportunity and Equity (CalPOE), Latino Legislative Caucus and Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas de Norteamerica (COFEM) will be having a roundtable discussion on the educational needs of California's growing immigrant population. This roundtable, **California Public Policy Workshop: Increasing College Graduates among Students from Immigrant Families** will be held on Friday March 6, 2009, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Pico House, 424-436 North Main Street, Pueblo de Los Angeles Park, in Los Angeles. This forum is hosted by UCLA Chicano Studies Research Director and Professor Chon A. Noriega and CalPOE.

Children raised by immigrant parents represent more than 20% of the population of all children in the United States and more than 50% of California children. In California, 85% of the more than 4.9 million children from immigrant families, ages 0-17, were born in the United States. Of these, 67% are Latinos, 14% are Asian Pacific Islanders, and 10% are Caucasian.

In recent years, numerous legislative proposals have required increased attention to strategies for school readiness and success for students from immigrant families such as improving rates of community college transfers, career technical education, financial assistance, and teacher certification, preparation and professional development.

The workshop will convene a select group of policy specialists, legislators, legislative staff, public interest stakeholders, and concerned institutions to address critical selected issues related to effective school achievement for students from immigrant families, leading to a successful completion of a college degree or advanced technical training for career and employment success. Key issues to be discussed are: increasing the number of community college transfers to four-year colleges and universities, achieving higher college graduation rates, and providing adequate financial assistance for college retention and graduation.

To RSVP please contact Alex Franco, Director of Research (CalPOE), at alex.franco@ucla.edu.

Quote of the Month:

"I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father's child has."

President Abraham Lincoln



LATINO HEALTH ALLIANCE & Latino Caucus Policy Briefing

"Budget Reform Debate and the Impact on Latino Health in California"



LHA Awards Honorees:

(left to right)
Mauricio E. Leiva, M. Ed., Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, and Richard J. Rodriguez, M.A.

Upcoming
Events

Tues, March 3rd

Latino Caucus
Meeting
(Members only)
Maddy Lounge,
Room 3195
11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Tues, March 3rd

Tri-Caucus Hearing
on extent to which
California lending
institutions are
meeting the needs of
actual mortgagees.
State Capitol
Room TBD
3:00-5:00 pm

Tues, March 10th

Latino Caucus
Members Picture
Senate Chambers
4:30 pm

Fri, March 6th

Latino Leaders
Reception in Los
Angeles at
Commerce Casino
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Fri, March 13th

Latino Leaders
Reception in Fresno
at Arte Americas
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Thurs, March 26th

Latino Caucus Cesar
Chavez Cristo Rey
Reception
State Capitol
Basement Rotunda
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Fri, March 27th

Latino Caucus Cesar
Chavez Floor
Ceremony

Dr. Carmen Rita Nevarez: First Latina to Be Elected President of the American Public Health Association a Nationwide Post



Carmen Rita Nevarez, MD, MPH, is the first Latina President-Elect of the American Public Health Association (APHA). APHA is a 30,000+ member national organization that is the oldest and largest public health professional organization in the world.

APHA is the primary voice for public health advocacy, leading the way to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and striving to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. APHA represents a broad array of health providers, educators, environmentalists, policy-makers and health officials.

In November 2009, at the annual meeting in Philadelphia, she will assume the role of president. As APHA President, her responsibilities will include representing APHA, meeting with state affiliate organizations, authoring a monthly column in "The Nation's Health," and representing the field of public health in the U.S. and globally. During her three-year term, she will also serve as a member of APHA's executive board.

Dr. Nevarez is currently Vice President for External Relations and Preventive Medicine Advisor at the Public Health Institute located in Oakland, a non-profit organization that promotes health, well-being and quality of life for all people through research and evaluation, training and technical assistance, and by building community partnerships.

This honor of being the President-Elect of the APHA recognizes the outstanding public health work that Dr. Nevarez has done at PHI, including building a binational public health agenda and partnerships, contributions to the prevention of teen births through the "No Time for Complacency" policy series, and her work impacting the defeat of Prop 54, (Connerly Initiative) that would have banned the collection or use of information related to color, race, ethnicity or national origin by any governmental entity. It will also give her the opportunity to share PHI's work with others around the nation and bring new ideas and partnerships back to PHI and California.

Dr. Nevarez is a graduate of the State of California's Preventive Medicine Residency Program, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, University of Minnesota Medical School and University of California, San Diego where she was an undergraduate at The Third College.

Dr. Nevarez is the former health officer and DHHS Director in Berkeley, California, and former Medical Director at La Clinica de la Raza, Oakland, California. She also continues her medical practice, serving the health needs of low income multi-ethnic women.

POLANCO FELLOWS BEGIN LEGISLATIVE PLACEMENT



September begins a year long journey into polishing these outstanding future leaders into diamonds. What distinguishes the CA Latino Caucus Institute's (CLCI) Polanco Fellows Program from other Leadership Programs is the hands-on mentorship they receive from the Board of Directors and members of the (CLCI) Corporate Advisory Committee who understand *legacy*. It is also a commitment from the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) in La Jolla, California that provides additional *Foundations of Leadership* training. This year's 2008-2009 Polanco Fellows are true trailblazers with big dreams.

Michael Castillo, Los Angeles, CA is the class leader for the '08-09 Polanco Fellows. A 2007 graduate from UC Davis, BA International Relations/Chicano Studies. Michael completed his executive placement at CalPERS where he provided proxy vote and policy recommendations to address the structure of the nations' financial institutions in collaboration with global investor councils. "The access to the type of information and the individuals I got to meet during my time at CalPERS were

second to none. Given the economic situation of our country, the opportunity to deal directly with corporate governance matters offered me a very eye opening experience into one of the world's largest pension funds." He is serving his legislative placement with Assembly Member Curren Price, Jr. (D-51).

Ismael Díaz Herrera, Mendota, CA is a 2007 graduate of UC Irvine, earning B.A. degrees in Chicano/Latino Studies and Sociology. He earned his Masters Degree in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2008. He was a PPIA Fellow at the University of Michigan and a Galbraith Scholar at the JFK School of Government at Harvard University. He completed his executive placement with the California Department of Education and is proud of assisting CDE complete its Title III Biennial Accountability Report, which evaluates services provided to English Learners in California. His legislative placement is with Assembly Member Jose Solorio (AD-69).

Trinidad Solis, Selma, CA is a 2007 graduate of Stanford University, BA Human Biology with Honors. She is the 2008-2009 Kaiser Permanente/CLCI Polanco Health Fellow. Her executive placement was with the California Department of Public Health. Trinidad is currently serving her legislative placement with Assembly Member Manuel Perez (AD-80). Trinidad will be attending medical school after completing her fellowship.

WEB ADDRESS

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/LatinoCaucus/>

CAPITOL OFFICE:

State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0056
Phone: (916) 319-2056
Fax: (916) 319-2156

"La Verdad"

California will receive close to 26 billion dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Education: \$9.5 billion for school districts facing major cuts and students seeking college grants and loans.

Housing: \$442.5 million for affordable housing and low-income housing.

Medicare: \$10 billion for health coverage for the poor, called Medi-Cal in California.

Mass transit: \$1 billion for bus, trolley and light rail systems.

Highways, roads, bridges: \$2.6 billion for projects at the discretion of the state. Half must be spent within 120 days.

For more information:
<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/feb/18/1n18stimulus235422-obama-signs-stimulus-bill/?metro>